

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As stated above, Applicants believe that claims 26-39 are readable on Species P2 (FIG. 5).

It is apparent that claims 26-29 correspond, inter alia, with Species P2.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 30 corresponds to Species P2 as well because FIG. 9 does not depict the species of the invention according to claim 26 (the embodiment of FIG. 9 does not have the projection at its pin). FIG. 9 shows a possible solution for a radially flexible mounting of the pin on the disc, which is claimed in claim 30. See page 15, first full paragraph of the disclosure. (Paragraph 0055 of Patent Publication No. US 2004/0094464 A1.)

Claim 31 is believed to correspond to Species P2 as well. If one were to cut pin 25 in FIG. 5 in a vertical plane perpendicular to the paper plane or drawing plane through the projection 39, one would achieve --in a specific embodiment-- the section shown in FIG. 7 or FIG. 8. The projection 39 is not restricted to a cylindrical member.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 32 also corresponds to Species P2. The projection 39 is not limited to laminar contact zones. If the projection 39 is thinner than the distance between the guide contours 36 (see claim 29) and if the projection 39 has a rounded end as in FIG. 5, the contact zone is automatically a spot or a line according to claim 32.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 33 also corresponds to Species P2 for the reasons set forth with respect to claim 31.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 34 and 35 also correspond to Species P2, because these claims claim specific embodiments of the pin, and not of the projection.

It is also respectfully submitted that claims 36-39 correspond to Species P2, because these claims claim specific embodiments of the retaining means, which may or may not limit specific embodiments of the filter insert according to claim 26.

Applicants would like to point out to the Examiner, as reflected in the paragraph bridging pages 5-6 of the disclosure (paragraph 0017 of U.S. Patent Publication No. US 2004/0094464 A1), that the features discussed in Applicants' disclosure can be

used not only in the respective combinations indicated but also in any other combinations or alone without going beyond the scope of the present invention.

As stated above, Applicants also respectfully submit that not only claims 36-39, but also claims 26-35 correspond to Species R1 as claim 36 depends on claim 26.

In any event, as stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement for restriction. Applicants believe that any search for the invention and the species embodied in Species P2 (FIG. 5) or Species R1 (FIG. 1) would necessarily include a search of the inventions embodied in the remaining species. Thus, the simultaneous search for all the species is believed not to constitute an unreasonable search for the Patent Examiner.

In addition, it is believed that the objectives of streamlined examination and compact prosecution would be promoted if a search were conducted simultaneously for all of the species. Also, the necessity of filing multiple patent applications in this case does not serve to promote the public interest because of the extra expense that is involved, in filing fees and

examination costs, as well as the burden upon the public due to the necessity of searching through a multiplicity of patent files in order to find the complete range of subject matter claimed in several different patents that could otherwise be found in one issued patent only.

Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional patent application for the non-elected species.

For all of these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. §121 be withdrawn and that an action on the merits of all the claims be rendered.

Respectfully submitted,
PETER BAUMANN ET AL. - 2 (PCT) (DIV)

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:jc

Allison C. Collard, Reg.No.22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No.26,048
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg.No.29,298
Attorneys for Applicant

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Fax No. 703-872-9306

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 28, 2004.

Frederick J. Dorchak